

# At the Theatres This Week.

Academy of Music—Page Stock Company in "Thelma" all the week. Lubin Theatre—Continuous Vaudeville.

## "Thelma" at the Academy.

Certainly the most discussed and what is expected to prove the most interesting offering of the stock season is announced by "The Page Players" for this week, when they will present for the first time in Richmond a dramatization of Marie Corelli's most popular novel, "Thelma." In book form, "Thelma" is one of the most widely read tales of fiction. Its popularity with all classes of readers has made it excellent material for stage uses, it having been adapted for the stage by several different dramatists and presented in as many different languages throughout the world. Strange to relate, however, it has never been seen in Richmond, and its local premier is awaited with no little curiosity by playgoers of this city, where book plays as a rule have met with more than usual success.

The version secured by the Page Company, which is the same that has been used by various leading stock organizations in the principal cities, follows the story of the book closely and consistently, and introduces the various characters so well known and remembered by the readers of the novel. In dramatic form, the story of "Thelma" is in four acts, three of which occur in Norway and one in England. The scenes are realistic and handsome, and have given the scenic artist wider scope for picturesque effect than any other play presented by the Page Players this season.

To those who are unfamiliar with the story of the novel a short synopsis of the play may prove of interest.

Sir Philip Brington and a party of friends set forth on a yachting cruise which eventually brings them to the romantic shores of the Vikings in Norway. Here they meet Olaf, Guldmar, who is a firm believer in the religious teachings of the Vikings. Olaf has a beautiful daughter with whom Sir Philip proceeds to fall in love, wooes her with all the ardor of a gallant lover and wins her for his bride. Together they return to England. It is here that the sometimes ruffled seas of matrimony break upon them, for here one gets acquainted with Lady Winleigh, who in the past has been in love with Sir Philip and still retains enough affection for him



MISS CARROLL MCCOMAS, Who appears in "Thelma" this week with the Page Players at the Academy.

to become madly jealous of his beautiful wife. With a desire to separate the two,

she manages to have placed in the hands of Thelma certain letters of a convincing nature, supposed to have been written by Sir Philip to a London music hall singer, in whom he has taken an indiscreet but well-meaning interest. These letters are misconstrued by Thelma, who is overcome with grief and despair.

Accompanied by her maid Britta, she abandons her roof and flees to her home in Norway, expecting to find her father there upon her return. In

the meantime Olaf has met with a fatal accident, and realizing that his end is near, follows the dictates of Valhalla. He is carried to his ship, where his attendant Valdimar severs the ropes, sets the vessel on fire, and the aged descendant of the Vikings drifts to meet his God, Odinn. Sir Philip, meanwhile, discovering the cause of his wife's flight, follows her to the land of Norway, where explanations ensue, followed by a reconciliation and a happy finale to one of the prettiest and most romantic little plays staged in many a day.

Miss Carroll McComas will, of course, appear as Thelma, while Frank Sylvester will be seen as Sir Philip. Alfred Hudson plays Olaf and Robert Cain the role of Sigurd the dwarf, whose poetic devotion to Thelma is one of the features of the story. Miss Everett appears as Lady Winleigh. Miss Aigen as Britta, Thelma's faithful maid; Valeria Valaire as the music hall artist; Mr. Mathews as Lorimer, the friend of Sir Philip, while Mr. Bliss, Mr. Kilduff and Mr. Hemmick have roles of minor importance. Stage Manager Bliss has given the production every attention as to detail which his experience has dictated, insuring in advance a smooth and even performance.

## At the Lubin.

The fact that this is considered the off-season with many stage celebrities, the Lubin has taken advantage of the opportunity and secured for next week a bill of exceptional excellence among the variety of acts and features to be seen being several of the feature hits of the musical comedy companies which have recently disbanded for the summer.

Among this number will be Fox and Ward, a pair of original entertainers, whose offering embraces the newest comedy features and song hits, in which they mix in, for good measure, a concoction of jokes, yarns and stories that are said to be extremely laughable.

The Ballo Brothers, a pair of gifted Mexican musical artists, will offer a novelty musical number, in which they will demonstrate their versatility both as instrumentalists and vocalists, their repertoire being extensive and including songs for which their native country is famous.

Jordan and Lessig will offer a singing and dancing number, that is said to be entirely different from anything else of the kind now in vaudeville.

The Parkers are heralded as one of the best comedy acrobatic teams in vaudeville, and they will offer a number that should be thoroughly enjoyable.

The Lubin pictures are always of the best, offering as they do, views and scenes that are as interesting as they are instructive.

## News of Horses and Horsemen

(BY W. J. CARTER ("BROAD ROCK").

In the matter of ability to win races season after season and train on to an age that of itself usually brings about retirement, some of our Virginia horses present quite a strong contrast to those bred in many other States, of which conspicuous examples are furnished in the steeplechasers Gould, Grandpa, Charawind, Jimmy Lane and others. Gould was bred in the Ellerslie stud, as was Charawind, a big and beautiful gelding, by Charaxus, from Helmwind, by Eolus, who raced and won over the jumps until eleven years old. Gould began racing on the flat under the name of Henry Joy, but later the son of Eolus and Lady Grace was rechristened, and won many races, his career being cut short at thirteen years by death, due to accidental causes brought about by falling at a jump. Grandpa, the ten-year-old gelding, by Grandmaster, out of Philippi, by Baden Baden, is winning this season, as is Jimmy Lane, the unsexed son of his Grace and Anna Duce. Jimmy Lane is nine years old, and was broken to harness before being raced; in fact, I am informed by Duff Green, his breeder, that the big chestnut gelding was driven on different occasions in the lead of a four-in-hand to sleigh. His Grace, the sire of Jimmy Lane, was sired by Colonel out of Lady Grace, the dam of Gould. Lady Grace was by Romney, son of Curles, by Revenue, dam Grace Darling, Diabolo's dam, by Jonesboro, from Ninette, the sister to Planet, and she out of the famous Nina, by Boston. Fin Mac Cool won a wide win at Toronto.

The Virginia-bred steeplechasers, Fin Mac Cool and Wayside, are winning at Toronto, and will be taken through the Canadian circuit. Fin Mac Cool is a brown gelding, 5, by Chorister, dam Valorous, by Stalwart, and was bred in the Antrim stud of Dr. James Kerr, at Warrenton. He won the Stanley Barracks handicap, hunter's handicap steeplechase, distance about two and one-half miles, in 5:31. Wayside is the bay gelding, 6, by imported Waterlevel, dam Runaway, by Algerine, the son of Abd El Kader and famous Nina Planet's dam by Boston, bred and owned by J. E. Lane, of Bamont, in Albemarle county. Mr. Lane has been very successful with the jumpers, having had his colors carried to victory in many races by such horses as Imperialist, the dead son of Norwood and Gommila, by Helmdar, Bell the Cat, Woodside and a score of others. Gommila, the bay gelding, 5, full brother to Imperialist, is one of the stable companions of Wayside, and the big and handsome gelding is well thought of. Imperialist was leased from Mr. Lane to the late William Belmont to carry the latter's colors in the Whitney Memorial a few years back, but was unplaced in the event.

Death of Sunol, 2:08 1-4, former World's Champion Trotter. The recent death of the famous mare Sunol, 2:08 1-4, daughter of Electioneer and Waxana, by General Benton, former world's champion trotter, and still holder of the record to high-wheel sulky, recalls the fact that her two surviving foals, one of them the bay horse, Bon Aworthy, five years old, is owned in Virginia, and kept at Plain Dealing Farm, near Scottsville, in Albemarle county, where he has developed into a large, handsome horse with good manners and a way of going that indicates some speed at the trot. Bon Aworthy is a son of Axworthy, 2:15 1-2, sire of speed and race-horse quality, and was bred by John H. Shultz, from whom the horse passed as a two-year-old to the late William N. Wilmer, of old to the late William N. Wilmer, of New York, who sent the colt to Plain Dealing, his country home in Virginia. At Mr. Wilmer's death, a couple of years since, Bon Aworthy became the property of the latter's brother, Joseph Wilmer, whose idea has been to keep Bon Aworthy sound and vigorous with road work until fully developed,

and then to have him handled for speed later on. When Bon Aworthy was offered for sale by Mr. Shultz at Madison Square Garden, New York, the catalogue stated that with less than five weeks' training the colt had worked a half in 1:15, with the last quarter in 25 seconds—a 2:20 gait—in his two-year-old form, and this was done in such a way as to convince those who saw him that he possessed the elements of a fast trotter.

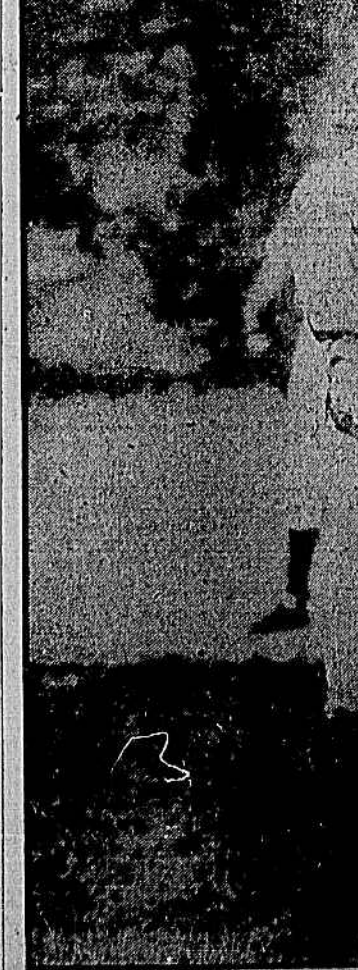
The oldest foals of Bon Aworthy, and they are very few, are now yearlings, which include a bay filly, out of Flora Jefferson, by Elk Nutwood, second dam Flora Diamond, full sister to Red Wing, the dam of Faultless, 2:19 1-4, and Jerome Taylor, 2:21 1-4, by Bay Diamond, son of Mambrino Patchen, 58, and she out of the old-time brood mare Kitty Murray, dam of Golden Prince, by Erie Abdallah, 129. This filly is a solid bay in color and good-looking, while she seems to take to the trot with evident relish. She was bred by the late Mr. Wilmer, but foaled the property of L. C. Watts, of Charlottesville, who obtained the dam while with Col. Mr. Watts, who is the sheriff of Albemarle county, owns several choice brood mares, among them Flora Jefferson, and the daughter of Elk Nutwood has been mated with General Watts, 2:08 3-4, and her produce by this champion of three-year-old trotters will be prized as few youngsters are in Virginia. Sheriff Watts and General C. C. Watts, the owner of General Watts, 2:08 3-4, at Charleston, W. Va., are brothers

May Athol, the bay mare, by Glen Athol, 2:24 1-2, son of Gambetta Wilkes, 2:19 1-4, is being driven on the road by her owner, R. L. Barnes, of this city, alternately in single harness and to pole with her two-year-old son, a bay gelding, by Alfred Nelson, son of Alfred G., 2:19 3-4, sire of the lion-hearted race-horse Charley Herr, 2:07. May Athol has a trotting record of 2:30 and trials under 2:20, while few handsomer or more stylish mares have been seen in Virginia than this elegant daughter of Glen Athol, who won many prizes in the show rings at the big fairs of the Middle

and both natives of Albemarle county. Va. State Fair Early Closing Purse. Early closing purses offered by the different fair associations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, were well patronized and proved very popular with owners and trainers of trotters and pacers. Reports from the different associations in these States all agree that these events bring a better class of horses and excite more than average interest in the program, and in some instances they have materially increased the attendance, a matter of great importance always. These early closing affairs were first offered by the Virginia State Fair Association here in 1907 and were repeated last year, with good results, and the outlook for this fall is even more promising, as the management of Richmond's big fair confidently looked for. This year four purses of \$1,000 each are offered at Richmond, including the 2:15 and 2:24 trots, and the 2:14 and 2:20 classes for pacers, entries to which close on Tuesday, June 15, but those received by mail with envelopes marked not later than 12 M. on the following day will be accepted.

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## The Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

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West, and after being brought to this State carried off the blue ribbon at the Richmond Horse Show to pole with her, mate when exhibited by E. A. Saunders, Jr.

S. B. Spratley, Waverly, reports the arrival of a brown colt, handsome and well formed, by Wealth, 2:10, dam Lady Spratley, 2:27. In the paddock this youngster alternately trots and paces while following his dam, and will doubtless develop speed at either gait with age and development. Mr. Spratley is now driving to pole the bay mares Princess Morrell, 2:21, and Daisy Prince, both by Sidney Prince, Wilkes. He is owned by W. A. Neal, 2:21 1-4. Both mares are well gaited and can show speed. Princess Morrell being much faster than her record indicates. The latter mare is out of Maud, dam of Ida Gay, 2:13 3-4, by Walker Morrill, sire of Lamp Girl, the fastest of Virginia trotters.

The bay colt, Dr. Opera, has joined the stable of Irving J. Coffin, at Stoneridge Stock Farm, and will be handled by L. J. Peters, who does the training. Dr. Opera is a three-year-old bay, by Dr. Mason, 2:11 3-4, son of Gambetta Wilkes, dam Lady Opera, by Ceciline, second dam the great brood mare Effie Davis, dam of Lord Sumrall, 2:10 1-4; Gowan, 2:13 1-4, etc., by Red Daisy Prince, both by Sidney Prince, Wilkes. He is owned by W. A. Neal, 2:21 1-4. Both mares are well gaited and can show speed. Princess Morrell make a fast horse.

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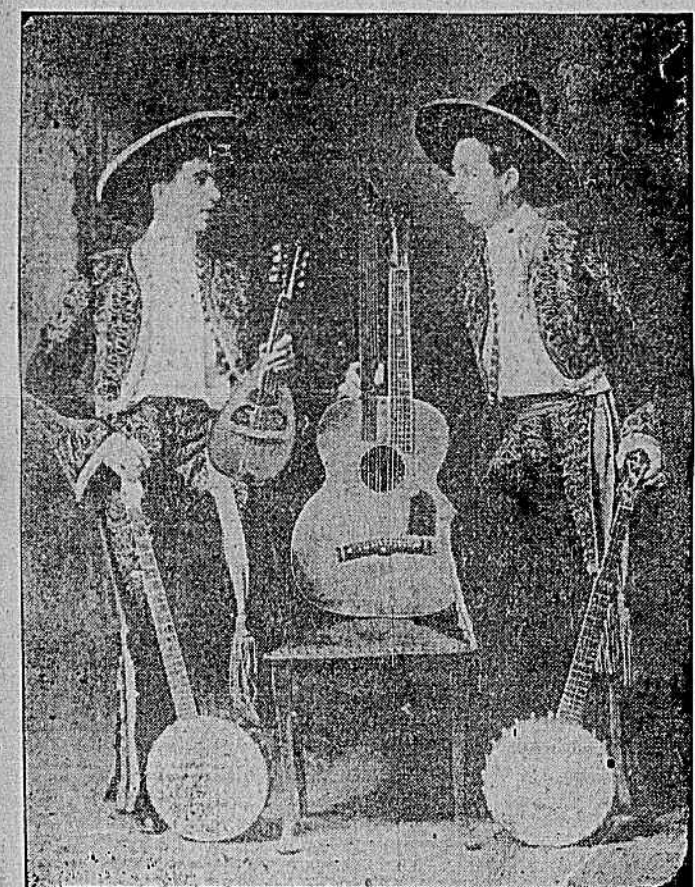
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